

REMARKS

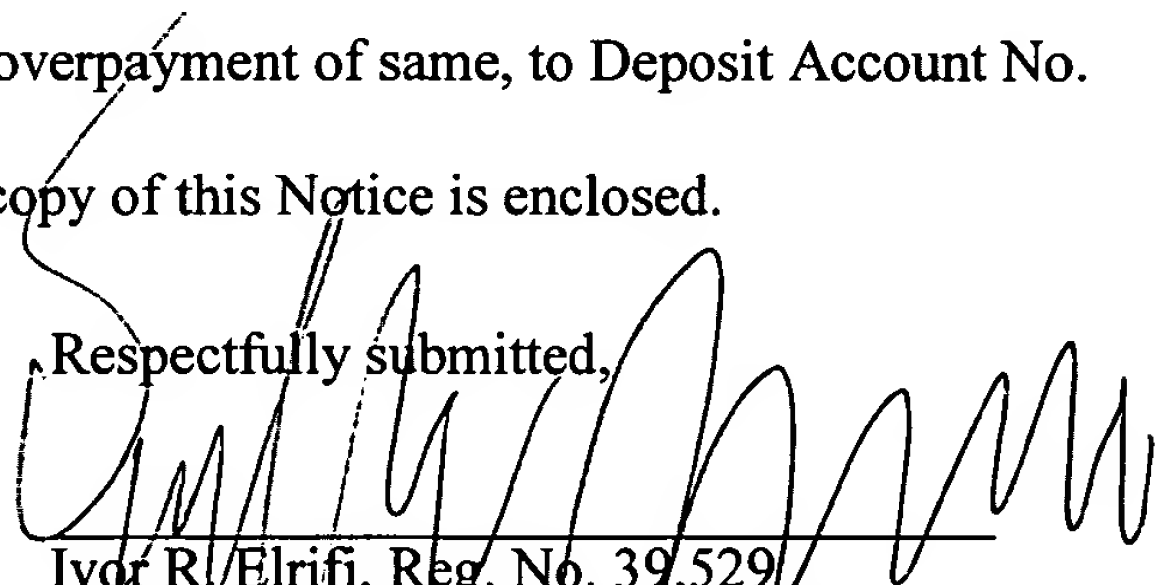
The only issues remaining in the case are the rejections of claims 1 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) by Hill et al., J. Clin. Invest. 102:115-23, 1998 ("Hill"), and of claims 2-5, 7-11 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Hill in view of Yang et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,700,664 ("Yang").

As requested by the Office, Applicants hereby submit a revised Declaration under 37 CFR 1.132 by co-inventor James C. Keith confirming that Hill "describes Applicant's own work." Thus, because Hill is not prior art to the claimed invention, the above rejections may now be withdrawn.

Applicants submit that the claims are now in condition of allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Although no charges are believed to be due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 22058-521. A duplicate copy of this Notice is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: March 14, 2005

TRA 2016287v1